Maximum limit of widow and children pension

2950. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the maximum limit of widow pension, children pension and pensionable salary as per the Employees Pensions Scheme, 1995 indicating the details of the calculation etc.;

(b) what is the present dearness relief over widow pension and children pension; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to enhance the upper limit of the pensionable salary and widow pension considering the present dearness relief and inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The minimum amount of widown Pension payable under the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 is Rs. 450/- p.m. and the maximum may in due course go upto Rs. 2500/- p.m. The amount of children pension payable upto two children is equivalent to 25% of the widow pension subject to a minimum of Rs. 150/- p.m. per child. The amount of pension is determined on the basis of pensionable salary multiplied by pensionable service and divided by a relevant factor. The maximum amount of pensionable salary at present is Rs. 5000/- p.m.

(b) and (c) Under the EPS, 1995 there is a provision for valuation of Pension Fund, and review of pensionary benefits on an annual basis. Accordingly, on completion of Ist annual valuation of the Pension Fund, an increase of 4% on pension in payment was sanctioned to the beneficiaries with effect from 16.11.1996. On completion of 2nd Annual Valuation, an additional increase of 5.5.% p.m. has been sanctioned w.e.f. 1.4.1998. The minimum amount of children pension was enhanced from Rs. 115/- p.m. to Rs. 150/- p.m. and the minimum amount of orphan pension was enhanced from Rs. 170/- p.m. to Rs. 250 p.m. The Government has also decided to enhance the upper limit of the pensionable salary from Rs. 5000/- to Rs. 6000/- p.m.